

THE FAMILY NAME OF ANTHRIBIDAE (COLEOPTERA), THE IDENTITY OF AMBLYCERUS THUNBERG, AND THE TAXONOMIC POSITION OF EUSPHYRUS LE CONTE.

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Anthribus Geoffroy.

Geoffroy, a binary but not binominal author, described *Anthribus* in 1762 and included 7 polynomial species. The name of only one of these, the 4th, was accompanied by a bibliographical reference to a previously used name. Pierce (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1916 and 1930, vol. 77, art. 17, p. 2-3) concluded that therefore only this species is available as type of the genus, and that since it is a dermestid beetle, the generic name *Anthribus*, type of Anthribidae, passes out of the Rhynchophora. In this conclusion Pierce was in error. He was correct in accepting *Anthribus* Geoffroy 1762 as a valid name, for the case is exactly similar to that of Gronow covered in Opinion 20.¹ But it is apparent from Opinion 23 that any of the species described by Geoffroy, if identifiable with a uninominally named species, or subsequently given a uninominal name, is available as genotype.

Geoffroy's species no. 1, 2, and 3 were all identified by Fabricius in the Ent. Syst., 1792, vol. 1, p. 376, and are respectively 1) *scabrosus* F., 2) *varius* F., 3) *latirostris* F., all three included in *Anthribus* by Fabricius; all of them, along with no. 4 (for which Geoffroy cited a Linnean reference) and equally with any of the others, if identifiable, were available as genotypes. The genotype was definitely fixed by Latreille 1810, as *latirostris* F., which is Geoffroy's third species. This species was also validly designated type of *Platyrrhinus* Schellenburg by Schoenherr, 1826, so that the two genera are isogenotypic synonyms. The name *Anthribus* can thus be restored as type of the family Anthribidae in the accustomed usage of that family name, and it will also fall within the same subfamily as the genus to which the name *Anthribus* has ordinarily been applied. The customary application of the name *Anthribus* has followed the usage of Schoenherr, who incorrectly designated the first species included by Fabricius, namely *albidus*, as type, disregarding the prior designation of Latreille.

¹ The matter of binary nomenclature is again under discussion in the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, but we cannot anticipate a reversal of their Opinions.

Amblycerus Thunberg.

In his *De coleopteris rostratis*, Nov. acta Reg. soc. sci. Upsalien-
sis, 1815, 7: 104-125, Thunberg gave a key to the genera of
Rhynchophora, published a description of each, and listed certain
species "inter alias numerosos species" which belong to each genus.
In doing this he listed (a) well-known species, without mentioning
the author and without description and (b) new species which he
described. It is clear that those species which can be identified in
the literature of the period, taking into account the generic charac-
ters enumerated by Thunberg, are available as genotypes.

Crotch (Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1870, p. 227) named *nebulosus*
as the type of *Amblycerus*, and this having been an included species,
was a valid type-designation.

Bridwell (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1930, art. 17, p. 29, footnote)
has written "It is impossible to accept the designation of Crotch
(1870) of *Amblycerus nebulosus* Thunberg, 1815, as genotype of
Amblycerus because of insufficient bibliographical indication to de-
termine the identity of that species which . . . might refer to
Anthrribus nebulosus Forster (1771), *Bruchus nebulosus* Olivier
(1795) or *Macrocephalus nebulosus* Olivier (1795)." Bridwell
thereupon designated *robiniae* type. *Robiniae* was also one of the
well-known species included in *Amblycerus* by Thunberg without
bibliographical citation or description or even name of the author.
It might apply to *Bruchus robiniae* Fabr., 1781, to *Curculio robiniae*
Hbst., 1795 (which later became type of *Cycloderes* and which
Schoenherr invalidly designated type of *Thylacites*) or *Bruchus*
robiniae Ol. 1795 of which *robiniae* F. was cited as a synonym, but
which is now treated as another species.

But Crotch designated *nebulosus* type, and the question arises,
can that species be rejected and another in equal position substi-
tuted? It is necessary more closely to examine the three forms that
might have been meant by *nebulosus*, and see whether it really
cannot be determined which Thunberg had in mind.

Thunberg says of *Amblycerus* and *Anthrribus* "Antennis per-
foliatis," of *Amblycerus* "Antennae articulis infimis aequalibus;
clava triarticulata," of *Anthrribus* "Antennae perfoliatae; octo articu-
lis globosis aequalibus; clava ovata, acuta, triarticulata."

Olivier says of *Bruchus* "Antennes filiformes presque en scie . . .
les sept derniers presque en scie" of *Anthrribus* "Antennes . . . en
masse, . . . les quatre derniers en masse perfoliée."

Of *Bruchus nebulosus* Olivier says "Antennae serratae." It
is thus very clear that it is excluded from Thunberg's genus
Amblycerus.

Anthribus nebulosus Forster is a well-known north European species (described from England) specimens of which are before me, as they certainly were before Thunberg, so that it is not necessary to rely solely upon Forster's rather scanty description. *Macrocephalus nebulosus*, adequately figured by Olivier, is a South American species that there is no occasion to suppose Thunberg would have had before him. So far as antennae are concerned, both might have come under Thunberg's genus. But not so in regard to the thorax. Thunberg says of *Amblycerus* "Thorax convexus, aequalis, postice sinuato-triangularis," of *Anthribus* (of which, as at that time used, *Macrocephalus* was a synonym) "thorax planiusculus, antice angustior."

The convex, posteriorly bisinuate, triangular pronotum is an obvious character of *nebulosus* Forster. Olivier's figure shows nothing of the sort for his South American *Macrocephalus*, and as to its thorax being convex, Olivier says "le corcelet est déprimé."

It seems therefore very clear that Thunberg could *only* have meant the well-known palearctic *nebulosus* Forster, now put in the genus *Brachytarsus*.

Of the 8 original species of *Amblycerus*, 3 (counting *nebulosus*) are members of the genus *Brachytarsus*, the fifth, synonymous with the genotype, having been used by Schoenherr in 1823 as type in erecting that genus, and 6 of the 8 are clearly Anthribidae. Billberg (a contributor to the same volume in which *Amblycerus* was described, and who may be assumed to have been in touch with Thunberg's work) five years after *Amblycerus* was published, in cataloguing his collection, listed both *Macrocephalus* Oliv. and "*Antribus*" auct. citing "*Amblycerus* Thunb." as a synonym of the latter. In it he mentioned only 2 species, Thunberg's 4th and 5th, "*scabrosus* F. and *varius* F." both now *Brachytarsus*.

It seems necessary therefore to let the designation by Crotch of *nebulosus* as type of *Amblycerus* stand, and to use the name instead of *Brachytarsus*, as should have been done when Crotch designated the type.

Even if the identity of *nebulosus* could not be clarified the fact remains that it was designated type, and type it must remain. There is no procedure provided under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature that permits Mr. Bridwell to set the designation aside and to substitute a species of his own choosing. The identity of *nebulosus* seems to me entirely clear but if the species were hopelessly unidentifiable it would still be type, and *Amblycerus* would become an unrecognizable genus. In no event can it be identified with *Spermophagus* auct. in the Mylabridae, as

has been reaffirmed by Bridwell within the past month (Journ. Washington Acad. of Sci., Febr. 1946, 36: 53).

THE TRIBAL POSITION OF EUSPHYRUS LECONTE.

Pierce (Proc. U. S. N. Mus., 1930, v. 77, art. 17, p. 22) has removed *Eusphyrus* from the proximity of *Ormiscus*, and allocated it in his new tribe Platystomini. Nevertheless, its relations are with *Ormiscus*, to the vicinity of which it should be returned, in Pierce's tribe Phaenithonini, if that tribe be recognized. It is true that it approximates the Platystomini in having the surface of the pronotum behind the ridge short and nearly vertical, but in this is only a step beyond *Toxotropis*. It agrees closely with *Ormiscus* and *Toxotropis* in its emarginate eyes, and in having the pronotal carina turning down and not at all forwards at the sides, thus terminating in a little lobe or wing; in these and other respects it is unlike the Platystomini, with which it seems to have no really close association.

Prey Records of Gorytine Wasps (Hymenoptera, Sphecidae).—Although it is well known that Gorytine wasps generally provision their nests with Homoptera, there are relatively few records of the prey of the North American species. The following notes may thus be of interest.

Ochleroptera bipunctata (Say) [olim *Gorytes* seu *Paramellinus bipunctatus* Say]:—Ithaca, N. Y., July 19, 1936; with the Cercopid, *Philaenus lineatus* (L.).

Gorytes atricornis Packard:—Ithaca, N. Y., June 27, 1936; with the Membracid, *Cyrtolobus tuberosus* (Fairmaire).

Hoplisoides nebulosus (Packard):—Moose P. O., Jackson Hole, Wyoming, elevation 6600 ft., July 19, 1929; an immature Membracid, probably of the genus *Palonica* Ball.

Hoplisoides spilopterus (Handlirsch):—Wenatchee, Washington, July 5; with the Membracid, *Stictocephala wickhami* Van Duzee.

Psammaletes pechumani Pate:—northern Virginia; with the Fulgorid, *Ormenoides venusta* (Melichar).

I am indebted to Dr. J. S. Caldwell for the identification of the Homoptera.—V. S. L. PATE, Ithaca, New York.